

Military Search and Rescue Monthly Report December 2011



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Theme

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Introduction

Military Search and Rescue

The military Search and Rescue (SAR) service exists primarily to assist military personnel in difficulty, although the majority of its work involves assisting civilians in distress, both on land and at sea. SAR coverage for the United Kingdom and a large area of the surrounding sea is provided 24 hours a day and 365 days a year by the RAF and the Royal Navy.

UK Helicopters

The UK military SAR aeronautical coverage currently consists of RAF and Royal Navy SAR Sea King helicopters operating from eight locations around the UK (RAF Boulmer, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leconfield, RAF Valley, RAF Chivenor, RAF Wattisham, RNAS Culdrose and HMS Gannet). The military SAR force operates 24 hours a day. It provides coverage throughout the UK, and also covers an area extending from the Faroe Islands in the north, the English Channel in the south, about half way across the North Sea to the east and halfway across the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

The UK SAR helicopter coverage is coordinated by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) based at RAF Kinloss.

Mountain Rescue Teams

The RAF has four mountain rescue teams (MRT), based at RAF Kinloss, RAF Leuchars, RAF Leeming and RAF Valley. The MRT units provide land rescues, primarily over the mountain regions of the UK. Military MRT units are coordinated by the ARCC, and often work in conjunction with helicopter units.

Overseas Helicopters

A SAR service is also provided by two overseas bases, at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus and RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

Further information on the UK's military SAR coverage is available at:

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafsearchandrescue/>

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Operations/Enduring-Operations/UK/Search-and-Rescue>

Other Search and Rescue

In addition to the RAF and Royal Navy, a number of non-military organisations provide SAR coverage throughout the UK. The activities of these non-military organisations is outside the scope of this report, however background information on some of the organisations involved is provided below.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

In addition to the eight military aeronautical SAR units, additional aeronautical SAR coverage is provided by four Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) helicopter units. Although these are not part of the military SAR service, the MCA helicopters are coordinated by the ARCC at RAF Kinloss, to provide integrated coverage across the UK. Details of their activities are included in the SAR Quarterly and Annual reports.

In addition to its aeronautical coverage, the MCA provides maritime SAR coverage throughout the UK. Details of maritime SAR callouts are not included in this report. Further information is available at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue.htm>

RNLI

The RNLI is a charitable organisation providing 24 hour lifeboat SAR coverage around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland, along with a seasonal lifeguard service.

<http://www.rnli.org.uk/>

Mountain Rescue Teams

A number of voluntary Mountain Rescue services operate throughout the UK. These often work in conjunction with the military SAR service. Details of non-military Mountain Rescue callouts are not included in this report. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/>

<http://www.mrcofs.org/>

Air Ambulance

Air Ambulance services operate throughout the UK, providing emergency medical assistance. Further information is available at:

<http://www.airambulanceassociation.co.uk/>

What is included in this report

This report covers military SAR activities for December 2011. It includes details of the activities of UK military SAR helicopters, RAF SAR helicopters operating in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, and military MRT units. Details of MCA helicopters units are not included in this report. However, a summary is provided in the quarterly and annual SAR Reports.

The report includes counts of the number of incidents, callouts and persons moved in the previous month.

Incidents are emergencies attended by Royal Navy or Royal Air Force units whose primary task is SAR, plus other military aircraft and ships that are available to the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

Each SAR unit attending an incident is described as a *callout*. An incident may result in one or more callouts.

Persons moved involves moving people from a hostile environment to a safe environment, or to a medical facility to receive urgent medical attention. It may also involve moving individuals between medical facilities at the request of the NHS.

The data source for this report is a weekly download from the ARCC database. Every incident recorded by the ARCC is included in these tables. Incident data from Cyprus and the Falklands is received by email on an ad hoc basis and may be incomplete. All data is validated and checked by DASA on receipt. Further details are available in DASA's SAR Background Quality Report.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=2100&date=2012-01-23&type=pdf&PublishTime=09:30:00>

Key Points

- During December 2011, military Search and Rescue units attended 109 incidents, resulting in 112 callouts and 108 persons being moved.
- The number of callouts and incidents were lower than in December 2010, although the number of persons moved remained constant. There were a number of callouts this month that resulted in more than one person being moved. For example, a callout in Cyprus resulted in 7 people being rescued from a tanker that had run aground.
- The reduction in callout numbers since December 2010 was most pronounced for land based callouts, which saw a 17% fall. Coastal callouts increased slightly since last year, while maritime callout numbers remained constant.
- The number of callouts also fell since November 2011, from 123 to 112 (a 9% decrease). This reflects the general pattern of SAR activity which peaks during the warmer summer months of June to August, with less activity during the winter.
- The number of callouts requested by the coastguard continued to fall this month, reflecting the seasonality of these callouts. December 2011 was the first month since January 2011 that more callouts were requested by the ambulance service than by the coastguard.
- The unit with the highest number of callouts this month was HMS Gannet, with 26 callouts. This is twice as many as the unit with the second highest number of callouts.
- Mountain Rescue Teams were called out 8 times this month, which is the highest monthly figure for the whole of 2011.

UK & Overseas Search And Rescue Summary

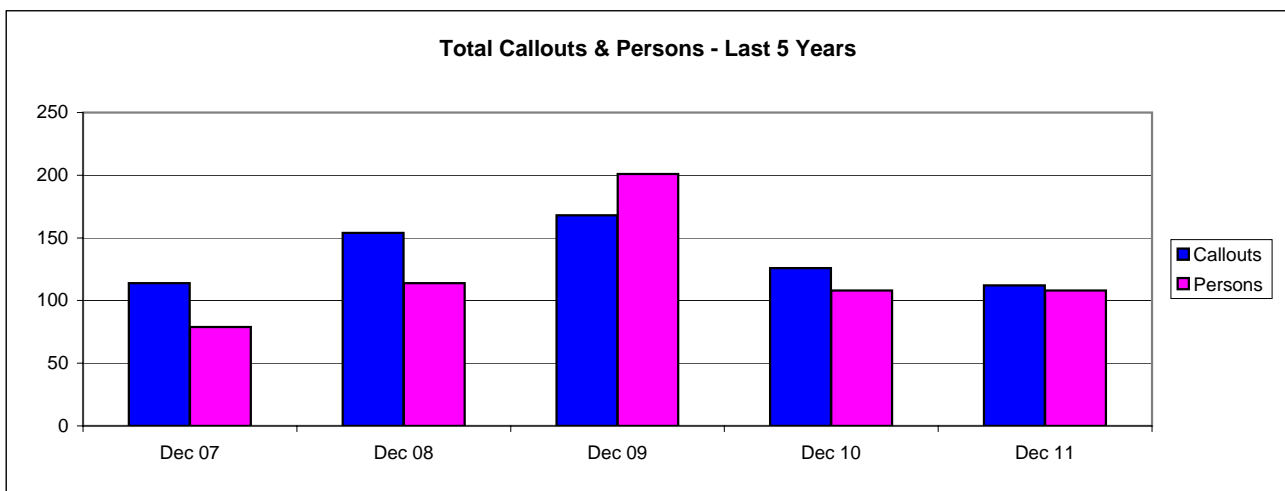
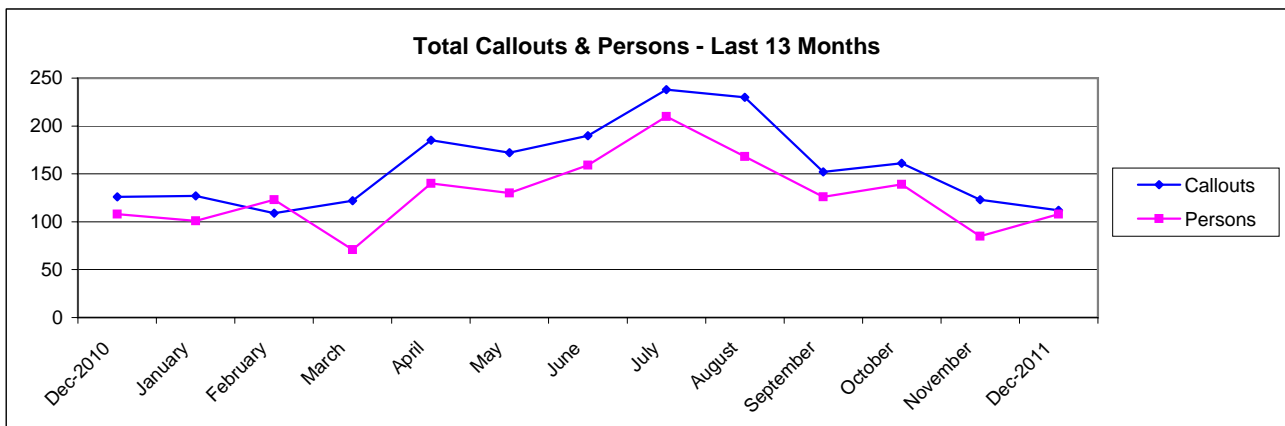
Current Month

2011	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team	Incidents	Persons Moved
December	112	98	6	8	109	108

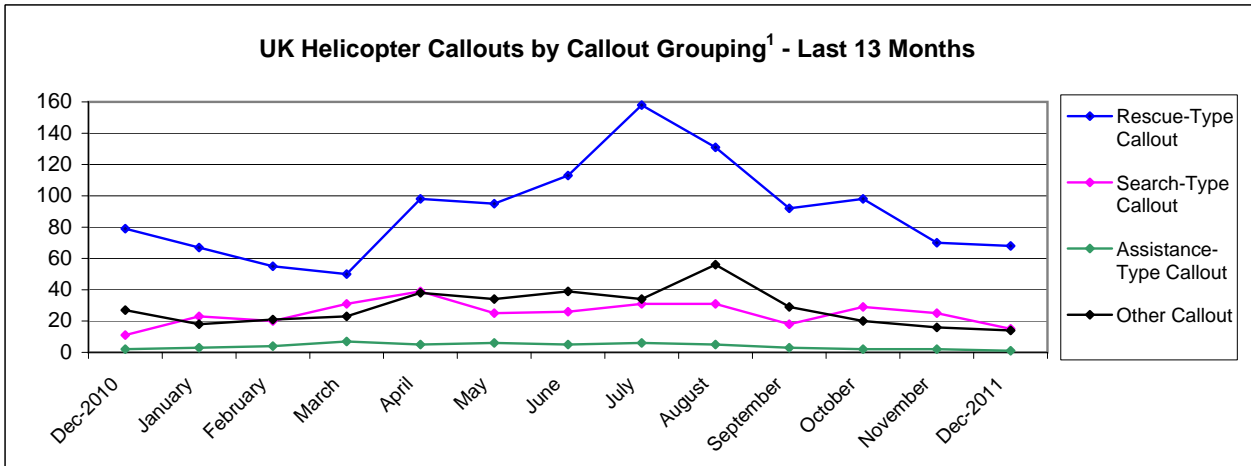
Previous 12 Months

November	123	113	3	7	112	85
October	161	149	6	6	157	139
September	152	142	7	3	151	126
August	230	223	5	2	228	168
July	238	229	3	6	232	210
June	190	183	5	2	185	159
May	172	160	6	6	167	130
April	185	180	3	2	184	140
March	122	111	9	2	118	71
February	109	100	3	6	103	123
January	127	111	9	7	118	101
December	126	119	4	3	121	108

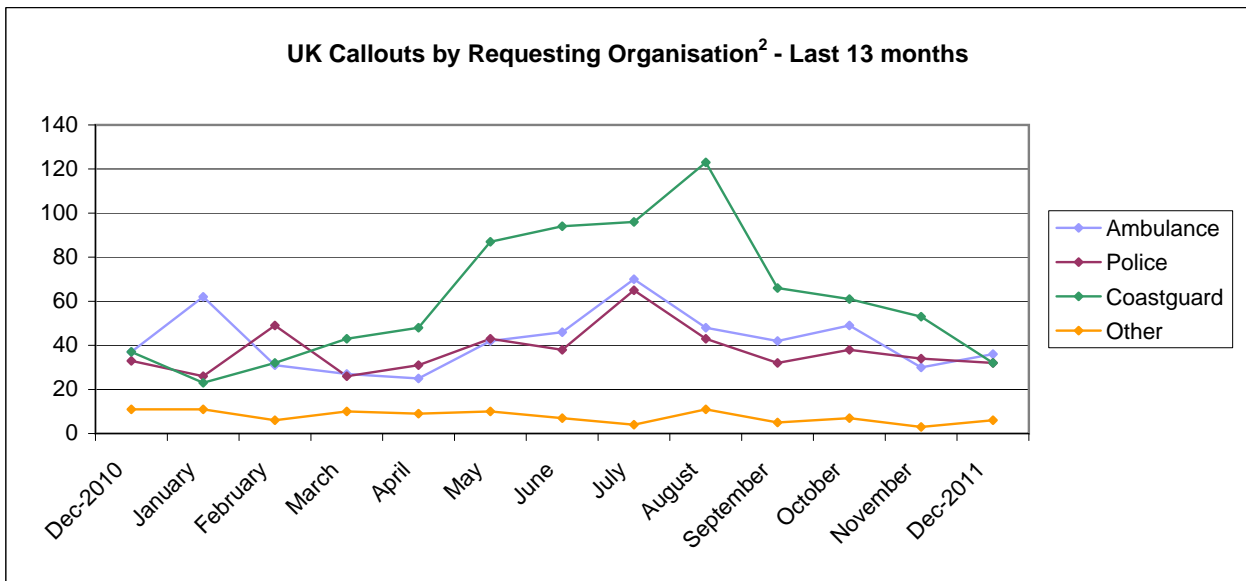
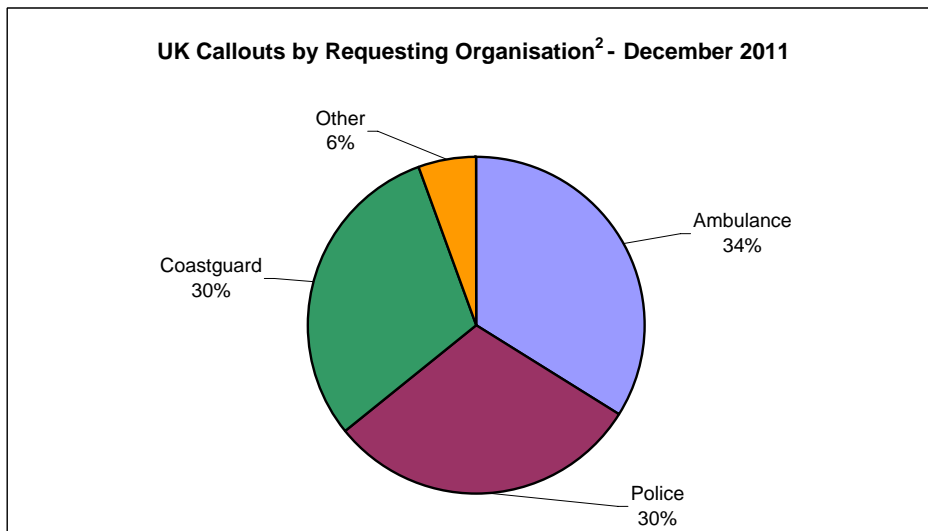
	ARCC Kinloss	RCC Cyprus	RCC Falklands	Total
Callouts	106	2	4	112
Incidents	103	2	4	109
Persons	95	9	4	108



UK Search And Rescue Summary



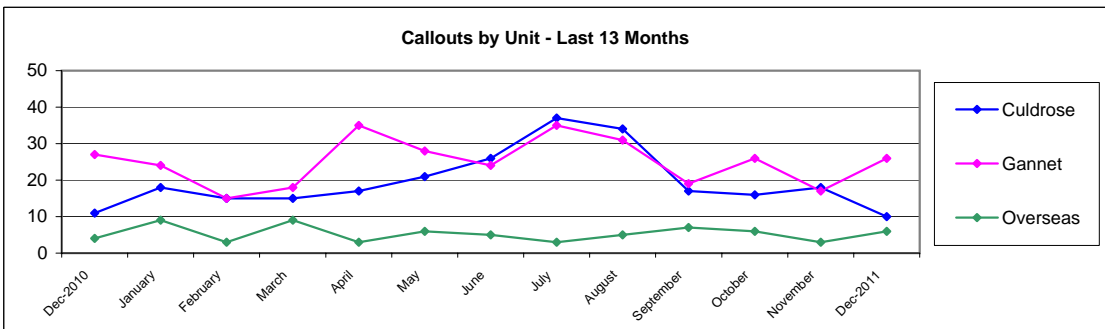
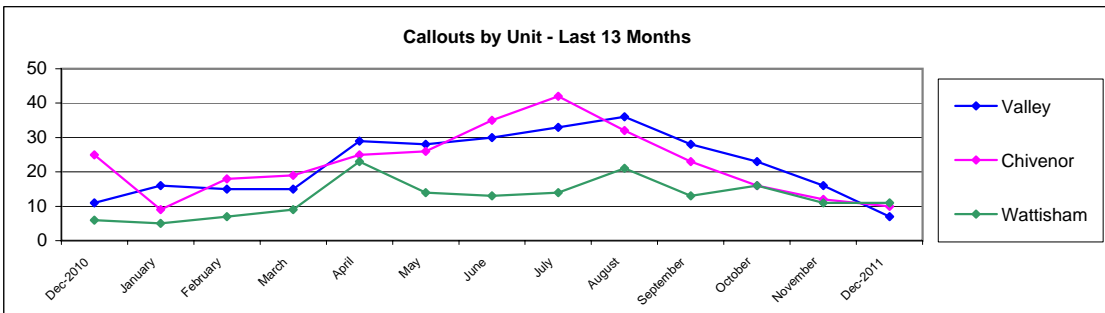
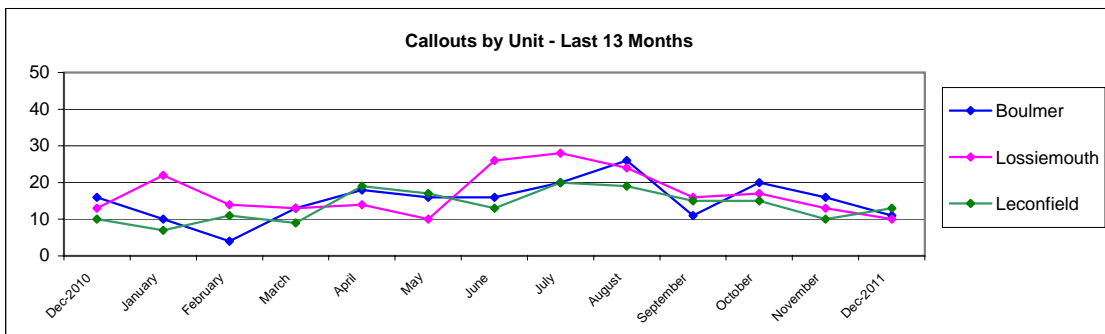
1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10



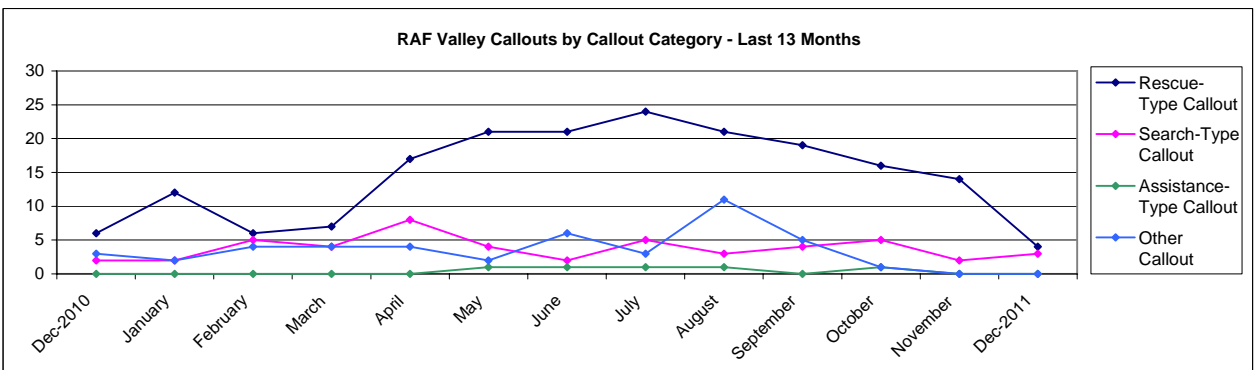
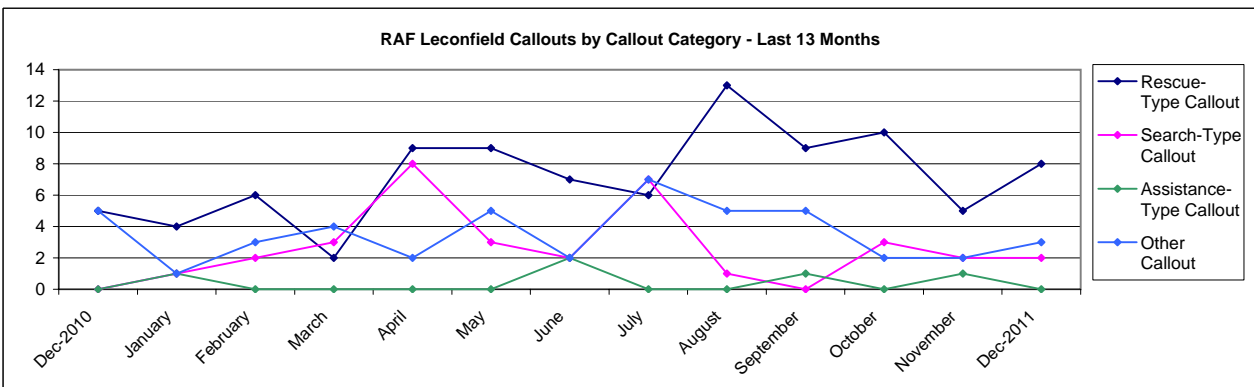
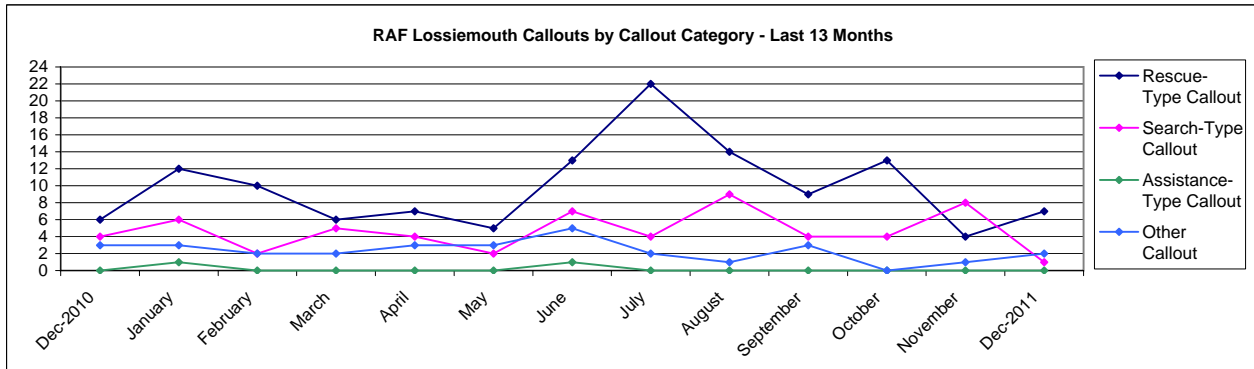
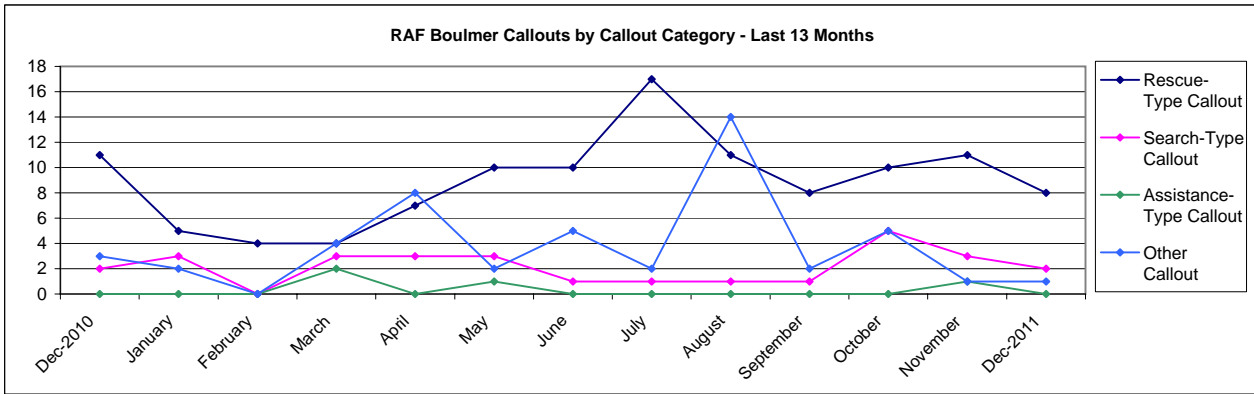
2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

Callouts - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	-	1	-	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	1
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Medrescue	8	5	7	2	3	4	29	6	7	13	-	42	1	3	4
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	1	-	2	-	3	6	3	11	14	-	20	-	-	-
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	1
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	2	1	2	1	2	1	9	-	1	1	-	10	-	-	-
Top Cover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Assist	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Recalled	1	1	1	-	1	-	4	1	2	3	-	7	-	-	-
Not Required	-	1	2	-	2	-	5	-	2	2	-	7	-	-	-
False Alarm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Callouts	11	10	13	7	10	11	62	10	26	36	-	98	2	4	6

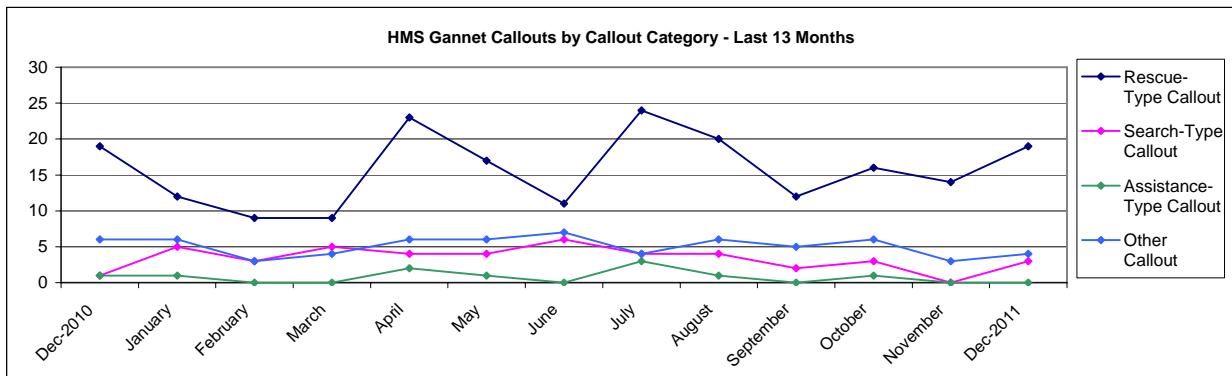
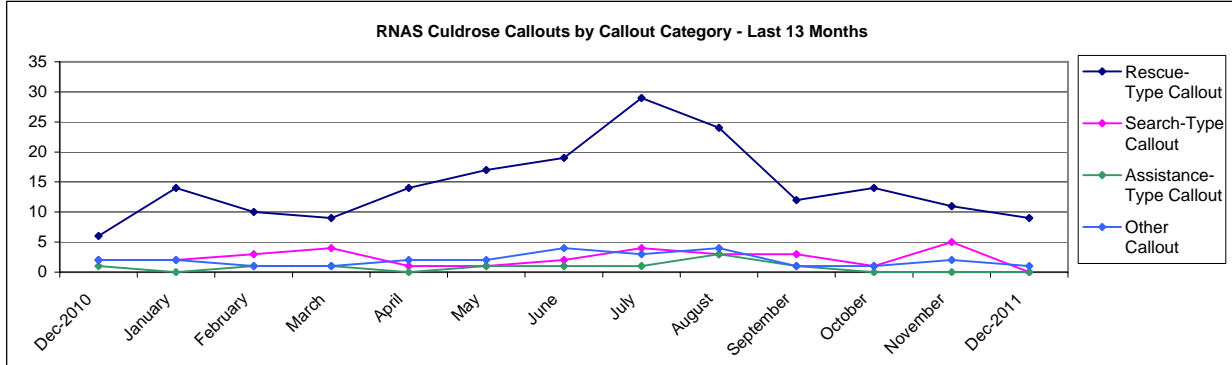
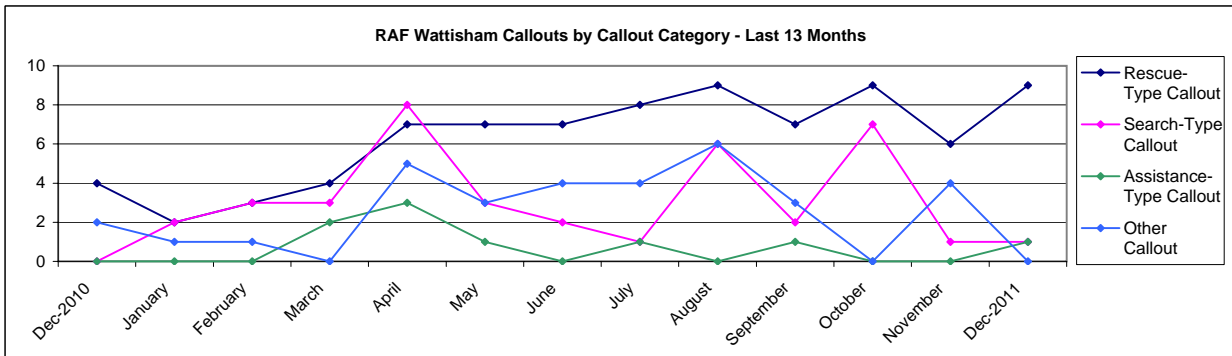
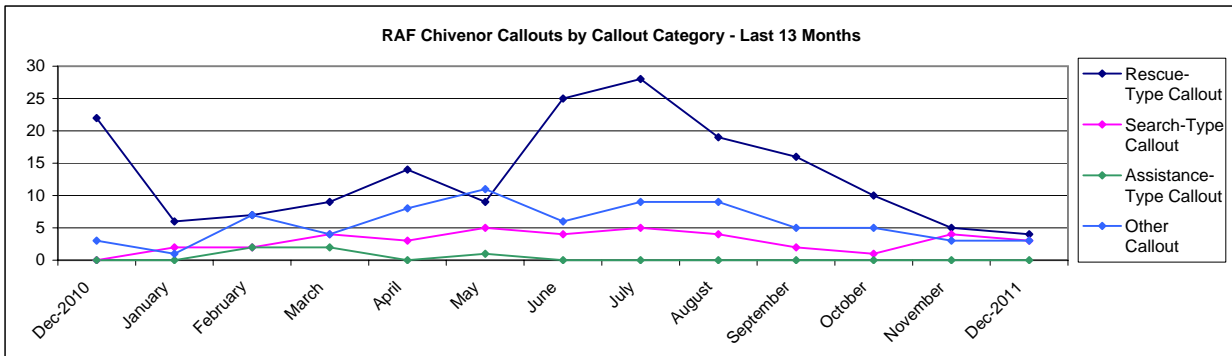


Callouts - UK Helicopters



1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10

Callouts - UK Helicopters



1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10

Callouts - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

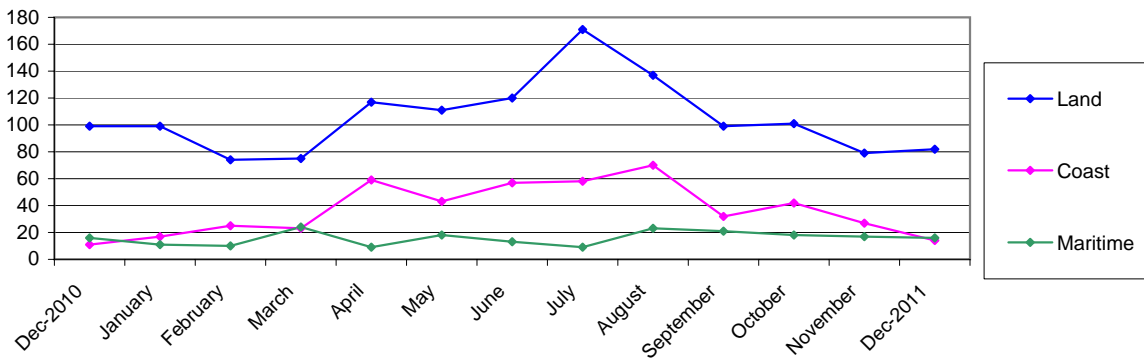
Callouts by Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	2	2	1	5
Search-Rescue	1	-	-	1
Medrescue	28	4	14	46
Search-Medrescue	2	-	-	2
Medtransfer	20	-	-	20
Recovery	1	-	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-
Transfer	3	-	-	3
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-
Search	8	5	1	14
Top Cover	-	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-
Search-Assist	3	-	-	3
Recalled	6	1	-	7
Not Required	7	2	-	9
False Alarm	-	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-
Precaution	1	-	-	1
Aborted	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-
Total Callouts	82	14	16	112

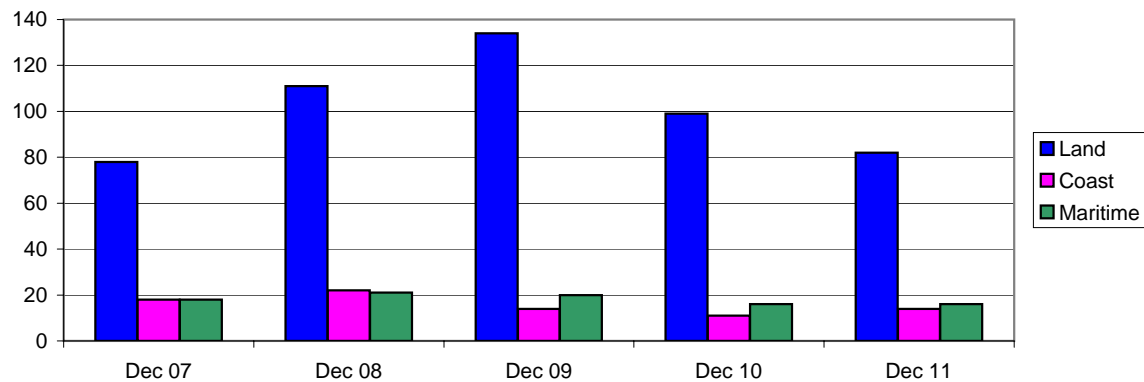
Callouts by Category

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	5
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Medrescue	-	9	-	7	-	-	30	-	46
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	-	14
Top Cover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Recalled	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	7
Not Required	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
False Alarm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Callouts	1	10	1	7	-	2	91	-	112

Callouts by Location - Last 13 Months

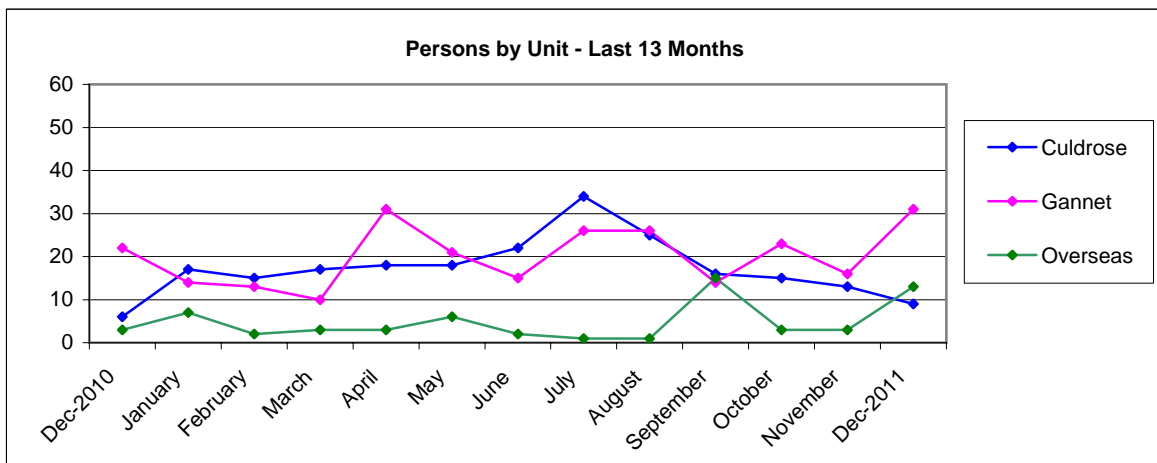
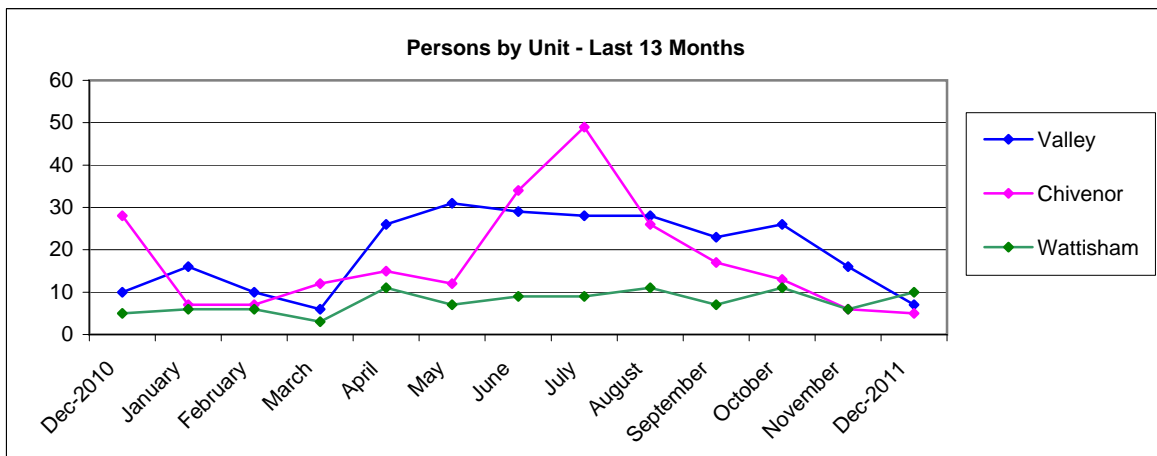
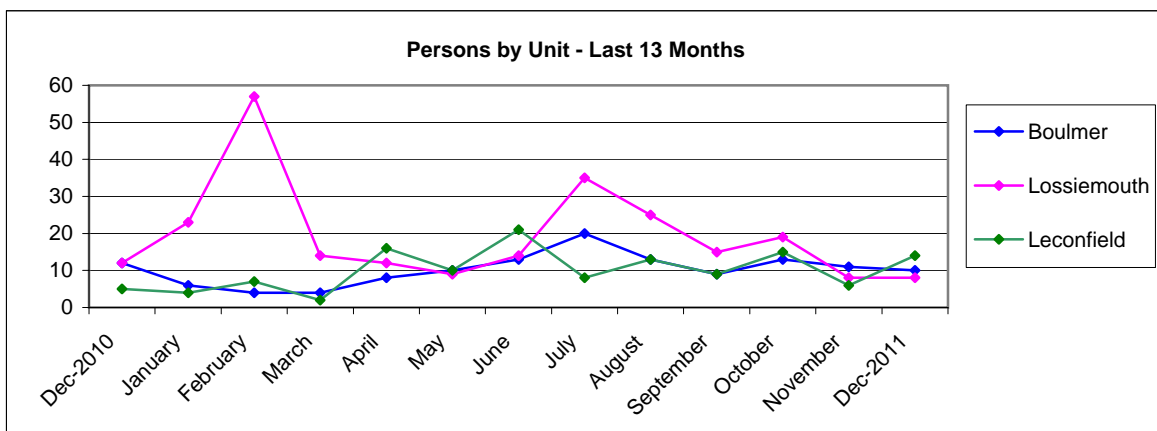


Callouts by Location - Last 5 Years



Persons - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Cudrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	-	2	4	2	1	3	12	-	-	-	-	12	7	-	7
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	5	-	-	-
Medrescue	10	5	9	2	3	4	33	6	9	15	-	48	2	3	5
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	1	-	2	-	3	6	3	15	18	-	24	-	-	-
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	3	-	1	1
Total Persons	10	8	14	7	5	10	54	9	31	40	-	94	9	4	13



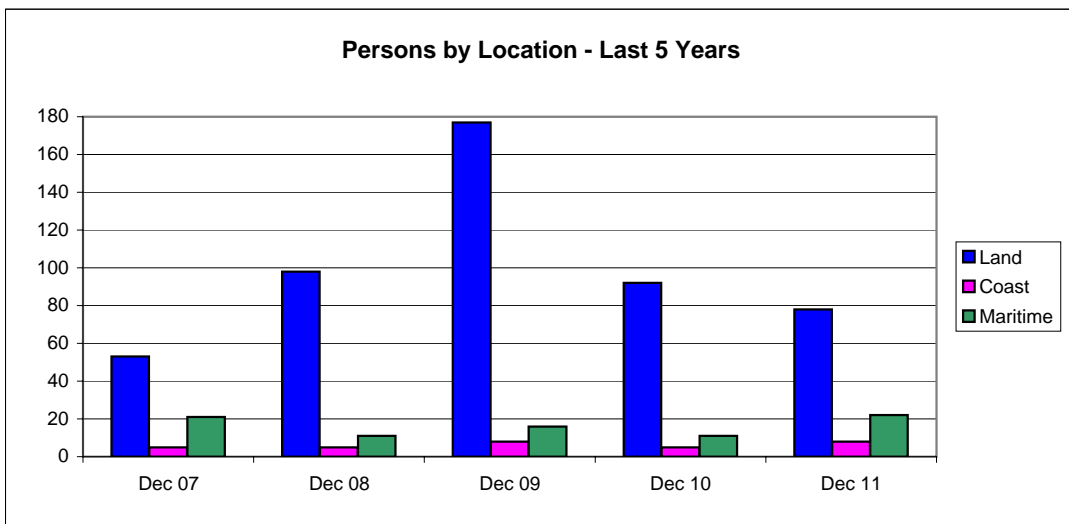
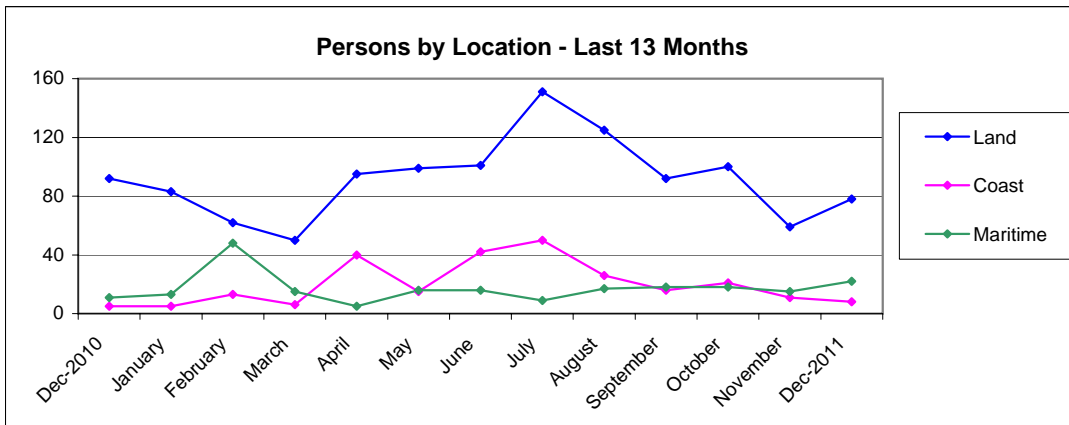
Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Persons by Callout Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	9	3	7	19
Search-Rescue	5	-	-	5
Medrescue	33	5	15	53
Search-Medrescue	2	-	-	2
Medtransfer	24	-	-	24
Recovery	1	-	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-
Transfer	4	-	-	4
Total Persons	78	8	22	108

Persons by Callout Category

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	7	1	-	11	-	19
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Medrescue	-	9	-	8	36	-	53
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	24	-	24
Recovery	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Total Persons	-	16	1	8	83	-	108



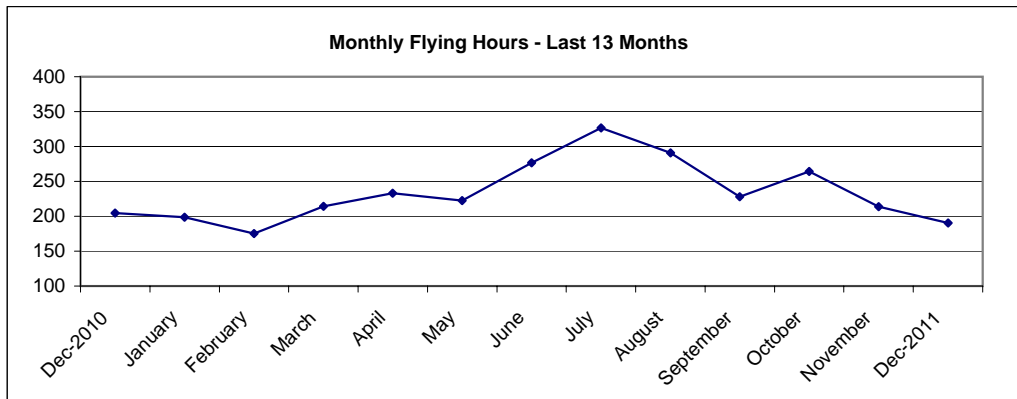
SAR Flying Hours & Mountain Rescue Teams

SAR Flying Hours³

	Total Flying Hours	Average Flying Hours	Average Time to Casualty ⁴
RAF Boulmer	25.55	2.21	0.43
RAF Lossiemouth	21.40	2.10	0.38
RAF Leconfield	19.15	1.29	0.30
RAF Valley	15.55	2.16	0.25
RAF Chivenor	11.10	1.07	0.21
RAF Wattisham	24.25	2.13	0.28
RNAS Culdrose	12.20	1.14	0.20
HMS Gannet	51.50	2.00	0.44
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-
Cyprus	3.57	1.59	0.43
Falklands	3.55	0.59	0.19
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-
	190.22	1.50	0.33

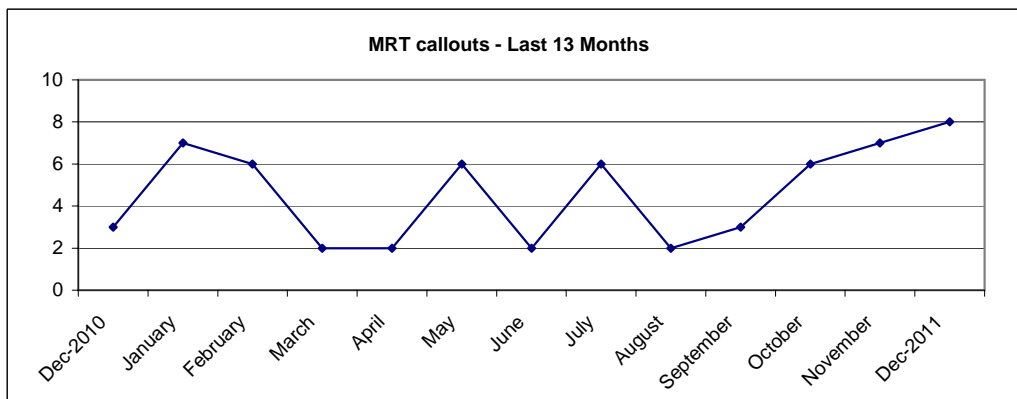
3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

4. Time to casualty is the time from departure from base to arrival at incident.



Mountain Rescue Teams

	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours
Kinloss	2	-	110
Leeming	4	1	180
Leuchars	1	-	40
Valley	1	-	40
Other	-	-	-
Total	8	1	370



SEARCH AND RESCUE DEFINITIONS

		GROUPING
RESCUE	Transfer of distressed uninjured person(s) from a hostile to a benign environment.	Rescue-Type
MEDRESCUE	Transfer of sick or injured persons(s) from a hostile environment to a recognised medical facility (eg, hospital or chamber).	Rescue-Type
TRANSFER	Transfer of military personnel, or their families, on compassionate grounds.	Rescue-Type
MEDTRANSFER	Transfer of patients or organs between medical establishments at the request of a recognised Medical Authority, i.e. NHS Trust, Hospital or Ambulance Authority.	Rescue-Type
RECOVERY	Recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Rescue-Type
SEARCH	Search for craft, person(s), etc which does not result in moving a person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of an uninjured person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – MEDRESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of a sick/injured casualty.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ASSIST	Search for craft, person(s), etc involving assistance to other SAR assets.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RECOVERY	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ABORT	Search for craft, person(s), etc during which callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Search-Type
TOP-COVER	On-scene assistance, e.g. communications relay, target identification, vectoring to target etc. for another rescue asset, or as cover for person(s) or vessel(s) in distress that does not result in further intervention.	Assistance-Type
PRECAUTION	Pre-positioning of a SAR helicopter to provide faster response to an anticipated or potential incident, eg, in response to an aircraft declaring a “MAYDAY” or a potential incident on a offshore installation.	Assistance-Type
ASSIST	Assistance to other SAR assets etc, such as moving SAR personnel or equipment (eg, mountain rescue teams, divers, pumps), shepherding of aircraft etc.	Assistance-Type
CIVIL AID	Military Aid to the Civil Community (eg fire control).	Assistance-Type
RECALLED	Asset recalled from incident whilst en route.	Other
NOT REQUIRED	Asset arrived on scene but no action required.	Other
ABORT	Callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Other
FALSE ALARM	Unnecessary callout with good intent.	Other
HOAX	Unnecessary callout with malicious intent	Other

